

REMARKS

Claims 2-19 have been added. Support for claims 2-19 may be found throughout the specification and figures. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-19 are pending.

In the Office Action dated May 4, 2005, claim 1 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,891. Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer herewith to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn.

New claims 2-16 depend from claim 1. In view of the terminal disclaimer being filed herewith, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-16 are also patentable.

New claim 17 recites “[a]n assembly arranged to communicate an utility to a component located in a first vacuum space in a vacuum chamber, said assembly comprising a conduit and a conduit shield separating the first vacuum from a second vacuum within which the conduit is disposed.” New claim 18 depends from claim 17. In view of the terminal disclaimer being filed herewith, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 18 are also patentable.

New claim 19 recites “[a] method of providing an utility through a conduit to a component located in a vacuum chamber comprising the steps of providing a first vacuum to the vacuum chamber while shielding the first vacuum from said conduit with a conduit shield and providing a second vacuum in a space comprising the conduit and separated from the first vacuum by the conduit shield.” In view of the terminal disclaimer being filed herewith, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 is also patentable.

All rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains at issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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